Enacting Formula

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Sir, I move:

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the words "Fifty-sixth" the words "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the reply of the hon. Minister on the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Discussion on working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting — Contd.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Cairman, Sir, in the last Session of Parliament, I had the privilege to initiate the discussion on the working of my Ministry, i.e., the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I am highly thankful to all the distinguished Members, like Shri Rajeev Shukla, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasadji, Shrimati Brinda Karatji, Shri Shyam Benegalji, Shri Perumalji, Shrimati Jaya Bachchanji, Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappanji, Shri Shatrughan Sinhaji, Shri R. Shunmugasundaramji, Shri Tarlochan Singhji, Shri Moolchand Meenaji, Shri Manoj Bhattacharyaji, Shri Ram Narayan Sahuji, Shri Kripal Parmar, Shri Shantaram Laxman Naikji, Shri V. Narayanasamy and Shri Janardhana Poojaryji for their rich contribution to the debate. A few of them are no more the Members of the House, yet, I value their suggestions and their understanding of the present scenario that is being there in the film world, in the Prasar Bharati and in the print media.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to inform the House about the three historic decisions which were taken after the debate was over, which, I hope, my predecessor, distinguished colleague, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasadji will also appreciate. The first decision is in regard to the DAVP. There has been a longstanding complaint about the circulation check and the network check. The earlier policy was that after the year 2000, there shall not be any check on the circulation of small newspapers. I have increased it up to 6,000. Up to 6,000, small newspaper circulation should not be subjected to any check.

There was a decision earlier that for a newspaper above 75,000 circulation, it would be assessed by the ABC mechanism. I have decided not to subject these under the ABC mechanism for those who have circulation from 25,000 to 75,000. It should be done by the statutory auditing institution, which has been the longstanding demand of various newspaper groups. But above 75,000, the mechanism, as it stands today, shall continue.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA) In the Chair]

Sir, I would also like to inform the House that there has been a very strong opinion, especially from Smt. Brinda Karat and many others pertaining to the Prasar Bharati and also to the Ministry. I had the privilege to interact with almost all federations and all groups in detail. And, after the appraisal, the Prime Minister was kind enough to appoint a group of Ministers, which is sitting from the 18th of this month. This Group of Ministers shall go into the entire gamut of the whole Prasar Bharati and its functioning from the base-level to the top-level. Sir, the fact remains that the employees of the Corporation, from the day the Corporation was formed on 23rd November, 1997, we are treating them as deemed to be deputationists from the Government. At the same time, we started giving them benefits like admission to Central schools, to the CGHS benefit, and many other benefits. I sympathised with them and I assured them with the positive outcome of the Government and we shall stabilise it.

Sir, another complaint was about the grievance mechanism. The employees were to go here and there, from pillar to post and nobody heard them. I am also going to announce a grievance redressal system within the Ministry so that periodically they can come with the issues and we can respond in a positive direction.

Sir, much has been said in the House in the debate about the growing trend of a few channels violating the advertisement code regulations and the programme code regulations which are absolutely necessary, which has been not checked and so on. Sir, true it is, the tendency has gone beyond a certain magnitude. We are issuing show-cause notices, hundreds of them.

Therefore, Sir, I am to inform the House that with effect from 24th May, I am going to appoint a comprehensive task force which will submit its observations within thirty days. The task force should not represent only the people in Government but also from various walks of life, like viewers to have their point of view on the growing obscenity in the name of advertisement, the wrong projection of women and womanhood as such in the name of using an advertisement. The entire gamut should be looked into.

Sir, you also had raised this issue and the task force would represent not only the Government people but also people from women's organisations, people from viewers and then we shall come out with a positive decision on the necessary regulation, to amend the advertisement code and the programme code.

Sir, I would also like to give a good news to the House which, of course, my distinguished predecessor, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, also pursued to expand the network of Doordarshan and All India Radio. All India Radio's own FM station in the North-Eastern States issue was a long-pending demand because North-Eastern States and island territories are having various kinds of ethnic aspirations in terms of their languague, in terms of their culture, in terms of their own folk arrangements and other things, which could not be focused by the only one channel of the North-East. Therefore, Sir, we proposed to the Cabinet to have additional two channels. The software cost would be not more than a hundred crores of rupees. The hardware and other mechanisms are required. This is aimed not to carry the FM channel of the All India Radio to the prime towns like Guwahati, Silchar or Kohima, but to the interiors where the ethnic aspirations of the people of the North-East, especially the teenagers, can be attuned to the FM, managed by the All India Radio. And to improve the capacity of the low power transmission to high power transmission in Kokrajher and the entire North-East as well as the island territories, the Cabinet has cleared more than Rs. 400 crores, a special package for this programme which we are launching very shortly.

This is for the North-East. Sir, in regard to the problems of shortage of staff and technical things, you will appreciate, Sir, not from today but from the last 10 or 12 years, the Finance and Expenditure in order to downsizing the whole arrangement of the administration did ban many vacancies to be filled up. So, what I am trying, Sir, I am going to the Cabinet once again, at least, to give priority to the technical vacancies where the programme quality depends on them, where the engineers presence is important for signalling and transmitting the things, at least, to give that, or, if not, the direct recruitment posts could be converted into the promotional categories of the existing one who toil for enough years in the Doordarshan and Prasar Bharti so that at least they could be satisfied. The unions and the workers also told me that this would be a positive outcome, if in that direction also we can proceed.

Sir, I come back to the NFDC. The NFDC did a very great job in the past. Very eminent directors, eminent producers and eminent artists made historic contribution to the glory of the Indian film through many NFDC programmes. But it is a fact that NFCD's financial support with the cost that is going up now was not substantial in order to accommodate the decisions of the directors and the producers, the amount that is to allot. Therefore, Sir, I have increased the capacity of the NFDC this year, and how NFDC will function in the new order, through the new management, I am going to Mumbai calling the full meeting, and the NFDC directors in the past, who took part in the NFDC programmes, to obtain their views and to give a retrial to the NFDC in a bigger dimension. Sir, also I am thinking to have a regular NFDC Festival every year so that the NFDC's promoters and supporters gain a new momentum for their involvement in this programme for creative documentation, creative programmes and creative contribution. This is about the NFDC. Sir, immediatley after the Parliament Session is over, I have fixed my plan to go to Mumbai, inviting all those who had been in the NFDC programmes in the past, at least, those who are alive, and those who like to come nearby. I will be too grateful in this matter if the experts in this area continue to help me, guide me, and advise me to further strengthen the NFDC. At one stage it was a situation that NFDC should be closed, it is not earning profit, it is not seen. But I personally feel, Sir, after taking over the Ministry that always in terms of profit and loss, the creative art and the creative

contribution should not be gauged and scaled in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. One has to be placed in a proper pedestal, to give more trial and more trial. After all the NFDC's films which mostly I have personally watched from all directors, those are really classic, those are really the crown of the Indian cultural panorama so far as film is concerned. If those are considered, not sufficiently money earning agency, and therefore, we are to close the NFDC, I disagree with that point. Therefore, Sir, I shall continue it with a greater vigour and I do hope the ultimate choice of viewers and the ultimate choice of the market, at one stage or other shall come around such kind of creative contribution in the country. Let us not assume that the entire viewers have gone to that kind of scale of private entertaining programmes which are now being shown regularly on various private channels and that was the only crying need of the country; I do not agree with that. Therefore, Sir, I feel I shall go to that direction. Sir, I would like to further respond to the Members' queries on one very important matter—where lies the Prasar Bharti today. It is a Corporation by Act, to enjoy full autonomy. But the Corporation has no money raising capacity and fund raising capacity, and therefore, it had to depend on the budgetary support. How long the budgetary support will feed the Prasar Bharti? Sir, the employees feel, you will be surprised to know, that we should repeal the Prasar Bharti Act and bring it back to the Government as it was, maybe, for their own survival and future. People at large in the democratic circle do feel that Prasar Bharti should function as an autonomous corporation with full autonomy on its own sound footing. But Prasar Bharti's revolutions, hardly I found they could gather that much of money. Besides the other activities I do not like to accuse any individual about the manipulations, and corruptions and other things. Even if clean out everything, even then I felt the Prasar Bharati needs a new direction to augment its own resources and resources can be augmented in three direcitons. Direction (1) more quality advertisement in terms of production in comparison to private channels could give some more revenue to Prasar Bharati. (2) To provide the programme which has not only a marketability but a loyalty type of right to sell or to use to other private channels in future; and thirdly, Sir, I felt that Prasar Bharti, specially the Doordarshan—I am not talking about All India Radio—is still learning on a sound footing and they can do better. Fourthly, what I felt was, the huge archives at the disposal of the Prasar Bharti, both in radio and in Doordarshan, if those could be completely modernised and digitalised and could be marketed

properly, I do feel, Sir, the revenue earning of Prasar Bharti would not be any problem. Though in a humble way they began....

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Hon. Minister has raised a very good point. Mr. Minister, I would like to remind you that the records, archives of AIR and Doordarshan are phenomenal. They are not only the archives of these two institutions; they are the archives of our nation. They contain the records of our history. I will mention about the Films Division. Their records are phenomenal. The reason is it is all getting dissipated, destroyed. Please emphasise upon digitisation. Now, I will appreciate if I know the result of that expenditure on digitisation? Is there a time-frame fixed? I would be grateful if you can tell me that.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Thank you, I will reply. Sir, I would like to give you one example. When I went to Bangalore a few days back to open the selling of the cassettes of the archives, at least, 100 senior citizens came to me to enquire about Paluskar's cassettes, to enquire about Subbalakshmi's cassettes and there was a big queue. I found that there was a buyer. Therefore, Sir, we have taken a positive step now to digitalise the entire archival document of Doordarshan and All India Radio. Hopefully, Sir, by the first week of June another show will be held in Delhi where the classical cassettes will be marketed once again from the position of the treasury of Prasar Bharti. With regard to Photo Division, I will give you one important example, which kept our relations with Saudi Arabia so strong. Sir, the Saudi King was our guest on 26th of January, in Delhi. Sir, on 25th January morning, I was the accompanying Minister of the King of Saudi. He suddenly told me, "can you give me a photograph when my great grandfather and others came 50 years back to Delhi, when Pandit Nehru was alive? Can you collect that photograph for me? That is my million-dollar treasure when Abul Kalam Azad was alive and everybody was there. I was told in my family about that photograph and at that time Delhi was so open. Each one was driving in an open car. I came in the delegation as a young boy and I still remember that in our treasure everything is there excepting that document". It was 25th January morning. Sir, 26th January was a holiday. I knocked the door of my Photo Division. Sir, I must salute them. The whole night they worked and collected the whole treasure of the past from the dust and I presented the album. He readily agreed that it is a million dollar treasure to me and I wonder how your Photo Division preserved the 50 years' back document with

such perfection. The workers worked the whole night. That gave me confidence that even in Photo Division, if you preserve documents, they will have immense value, both in respect of our international relations and in terms of our national history. Therefore, Sir, I have attempted to prepare Photo Division archives also.

Sir, I come back to the most important point which Shri Ravishankarji has mentioned. In fact, this point was also stated to me by senior leader of our country who is now no less than the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjeeji, the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji and Madam Soniaji that the Films Division is the treasure of the past. And, I have no hesitation to say that the Films Division has been managed very shabbily and in a very bad manner. Hundreds of documents are piling up. There is seepage. The rooftop is not sealed. I have gathered all the information and assure the House that you will find at the end of the year one of the most strongly, possibly, technically managed achieves of the Films Division. The hon. Prime Minister has told me that money is not the issue. You go ahead with the modern experts to preserve this treasure. The treasure of the Films Division alone has such a marketable value that you cannot think of how much money we can get. I did do intervention for which, I think, a few of my colleagues in the Films Division got hurt. Sir, without the knowledge of the Ministry a thing had happened. One day some friend came to me from Mumbai. In mobile telephony, the voice of Gandhiji or the voice of Subash Chandra Bose -- Chalo Delhi -- or the voice of Abdul Kalam Azad or the voice of some great leader has been sold to use in mobile telephony at a cheap price without any consideration. I immediately stopped it. I suspended the Director of the Films Division. I said that such a golden treasure cannot recklessly be marketed and sold to one company to monopolise and I stopped it. After that, I felt, if such voice, such treasure, is preserved properly, if it is marketed, it could fetch a lot of money and the same could be fed to archives again to expand its horizon. Therefore, in this direction, I have also taken a very strong step instantly when I good the message.

Sir, I feel the way the Films Divisions's programmes worked in the form of documentaries in the past is great. I remember, when I was a school student, the Bhakra Nangal was opened. The first knowledge of my Bhakra Nangal was in my student days through a documentary film. On those days the Field and Publicity Division used to go to villages.

Therefore, I give immense value to documentaries of the Films Division. And, adding strength to it, we are inviting more documentary-makers to come under our umbrella so that we can support them, finance them and give them, if necessary, some in-house technology to come up to the expectations of other competitors.

Sir, I would like to say about the sting operations. It is much talked about in the country now. Normally, it is an established fact that the bribe-taker and the bribe-giver are equally guilty to be tried by the law of the land. If I give bribe or if I take bribe, I am guilty. But, in the media parlance, there is another perception. It is, whether a media personality or media correspondent has a fundamental right to invade privacy of someone who is an important personality in the country -- be it an MLA or an MP or a Minister -- and to have something which he does not do in accordance with the law of the land and the Constitution of India or the rules of business. So, there is a debate going on. At the end of the day, I feel, personally, that self-regulation of channel and print media should continue. We shall not give any direction or dictation or imposition. But, all the time, it is the Income Tax Department, it is the law of the land should find out who takes money, who gives money and what is the source. That is not the prerogative or not within the domain of the I & B Ministry. In spite of all these things, our Government policy is not to impose any regulation on any media, on any journalist, on any correspondent in any manner whatsoever. The only complaint/redressal mechanism should be the Press Council of India. If the Press Council on their own comes forward to strengthen their teeth, we will look into. The Government as such, by its own policy, shall not interfere with the right of journalists and their fundamental views on issues of the country, be it in print or electronic media. That I would like to make once again clear. Sir, now, I come to the issue of magazines. In the globalisation, a few magazines have come. A few magazines are so desperate to get into the market that they use various devices. And, I must honestly confess in the House that even one of our distinguished lady Members of the House was not spared by a magazine called 'Mackenzie'. I have studied the legal position, the technical position and I am going to take a very strong stake. I am not satisfied with their explanation. I would like to set a model that in future others who come to trade in India do not repeat the same thing. I have got various representations from various women organizations also in

this regard. I am dealing with it very firmly. Hopefully, within another fifteen days, I would be able to take the final action. I am taking a precaution that if I take an action, they do not go to court and reserve my order. That's why I have taken a little more time.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Miniser for his very sensitive comments, now, when he was replying. But I would just like to draw your attention and, through you, of the House that, unfortunately, although I had approached the Police Commissioner of Delhi after speaking to the hon. Home Minister and given the details of the magazine, who owns the magazine -- this is an American magazine, but it is published in India; they had morphed a photograph, which is the most ridiculous and illegal act on their part -- immediate action was not taken. The man should have been arrested there and then. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that as a Member of Parliament I had given necessary details, and an FIR had been filed, no action has been taken by the Delhi Police, till date, despite my having spoken to the Commissioner of Police in this regard. Because of the election campaign, I was out of Delhi for the last two months, I could not personally follow it up. Since the Home Minister is in the House, and he was also very kind enough to speak immediately to the Police Commissioner. If a Member of Parliament is subject to this kind of thing and no action is taken, I don't know what other women will face. Though the Minister of Information and Broadcasting has said what he will do in his jurisdiction, the Delhi Police should also act against the person.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Home Minister is present here. I hope, both of us shall jointly deal with it.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, It goes without saying that we will look into it for a proper, appropriate and immeidate action.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, with regard to the Film Publicity Division the point that I would like to mention is this. This Division is very weak now, at the moment -- my distinguished colleague predecessor also knows it -- because of the budgetary curtailment and other things. But, I feel, the kind of innovative programmes, which are coming after the passing of the Right to Information Bill, a new era has opened. The rural masses of India should be absolutely kept informed of

the updated information of the Government's planning and programme. Therefore, Sir, I am going to revive, in a new dimension, the Film Publicity Division, in order to reach not the urban area, they have regular access to the TV channels, but the remote village areas where the people would like to be updated about the latest programmes, like, what the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* is; what the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is; what the family planning drive is; what the Literary Mission is. All these things should be known to them. I would also like to say in the House that in the naxalite-infested areas -- where social issues are very prominent, like land reforms; like soical injustices to the women; like the issue of drinking water; like the self-employment programme project under the Panchayati Raj -- on these issues, adminsitrative apparatus can be dealt with by the State Government, but the positive approach of the development of these areas, tribal areas, hill terrain, should be carried out by the Film Publicity Division. I have earmarked their work for this year. They should go there. Therefore, I am going to improve the functioning of the Film Publicity Division in this direction also. An educated man can write a letter, with twenty rupees, to get information from the BDO or the DM under the Right to Information Act. But, an ordinary wage earner might not be knowing what the minimum wage of the State is. He is being exploited. So, all these information can be provided through the Film Publicity Division. If I can go to the villages, I hope, the villagers will know what their rights are, and what he gets from which programme. Therefore, Sir, I have taken this decision in that direction also. I am going to act in this manner. Sir, I will come to the Song and Drama Division. It is a wonderful Organisation which once upon a time used to give the basic feedback to the nation and the people. I remember, Sir, the wars in 1962 and 1965. We were college students in those days and it was only the Song and Drama Division which enthused the core essence of patriotism throughout the length and breadth of this country. That Organisation, unfortunately, is very weak now. Artistes do not get that kind of remuneration. And they are casual workers. They dance for two hours and the kind of support that they get makes me feel really sad and I shed my tears. Therefore, I am going to classify these two like this. The top class programmes on contract will have a different kind of rate. The regular programmes, in the regular panel, should be dealt with in a regular fashion, not at the existing rate but by improving it. And, I am addressing the total issue to the Finance Ministry, once again, to give them this support back.

Regarding the talent of the Song and Drama Division, I can tell you that it is beyond imagination what good talent they have. Sir, the

entire All India Radio Musical Wing, those who play concerts, I can tell you, is unparalleled by any private concert group of India. It is unparalleled by any international group of orchestra. But, Sir, the talent is not honoured.

I now come to films, Sir. I got a query from a great artist, Shri Yesudas. He was telling me that gradually in the industry real, natural talent of *Pakhawaj, Sitar, Mridang, Table* are going out. Why? All are using Synthesizers. It is quick, easy and less costly. But the natural talent of this country is dying down. Therefore, Sir, I am actively considering to give the Best Music Direction Award in the films, whether we should include these categories. Yes, it could be awarded. If it is really orchestrated by the natural musicians, then only they can survive; otherwise, their number will get wiped out. All are using the Synthesizers. One Violinist came to see me the other day in Bangalore. He was in tears. He said, "I tuned for such huge classical films with violin. But, for the last three years, I have not got a call for even Rs. 50!" I do agree that Synthesizer is required to minimise the cost. Shri Shyam Benegalji is here; he is more knowledgeable then me. But, at the same time, in judgement of the quality of the musical direction programme and the base song, if you adjust the Synthesizer as a quality programme and not the natural talent, then, natural talent will not get justice. Therefore, for the next Award giving programme, I am actively considering suggesting this mechanism to the jurists and others.

Sir, in regard to the advertisements in the newspapers and others, our policy is very clear. Their rating is based on the circulation. But, I would like to announce in this House today that the rural newspapers throughout the country, carry on a lot of information which is picked up by the major newspapers later on. It is they who collect the information as to why the dam is collapsing. It is they who collect the information about why there is drinking water scarcity. Then the collective information of those gets a headline by a Special Correspondent once in a while in the big newspapers. Therefore, Sir, I felt it proper that small newspapers advertisement fund budget and the rate should be increased than what it is now. I am going to do it throughout the country. That I will do, not sitting here in Delhi, but in each State capital and the district headquarters, with the help of State apparatus who can guide us in this matter.

I do not want to take much of your time. Most of the point I have answered. I will attempt the last point now. I know that it is a very

controversial point. I, as a Minister, confess in the House that in the name of music albums, in the name of late night, midnight, prime time channels, in the name of crime report index in the private and other channels, unfortunate accidental, shocking things are coming up everyday.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: What is accidental about it?

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: I am just explaining that. Accidental in the sense that if a journalist feels he has a right to report the crime, up to that it is perfect, but to create a sensation by repeating the cruelty five or ten times before the children, and how to operate the kill, then, it is accidental on the part of that journalist; he should avoid it. Sir, as a Minister, I cannot dictate, I cannot guide; it is self-regulation. But, Sir, I would like to take the House into confidence that obscenity of any nature cannot be allowed in the name of showing music album. See, the music is love the nature and love water. I have heard a song saying, the beloved has come back, father died, parent died, you come back. There is another song. I repeat that song, and that is, the rain has come, yet you have not come. It is very good and romantic. But without any relevance to the theme of this song, the kind of scene it is being placed in the order of the music album is absolutely nonsense, and it has no relevance to it. Therefore, Sir, I am calling a meeting of all the channel editors at the end of this Session to invite their opinion on how to regulate it. If self-censorship mechanisms of the private channels are not imposed on them, they are free; they can do whatever they like. This is intolerable. It is creating problems. Sir, I gave you an example. In Belaghat in Calcutta, one small boy died after seeing a film 'The Children'—how to play the game of hanging around. The game of hanging was shown in the film—knocking the rope, tie with the fan and get in, or, putting a young brother into the fridge, then closing the door after which he died.

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR (West Bengal): Not only one, there are four or five such cases.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes. Sir, these are being reported and shown in many orders. It is difficult for the Ministry to control all the private channels throughout the day. Therefore, Sir, I am seeking the advice of the private channel editors. I am calling them. It is my appeal, through this House, that in the name of crime reporting, don't show the cruelty time and again, at 10.00 p.m., at 9.30 p.m., at 10.30 p.m. in such a manner. While even women fell sick, they tell us. And the rape incidents

and other incidents, the way it is being placed in the name of crime reporting, it is absolutely intolerable. Therefore, Sir, reporting part is okay, but displaying the whole crime, motivating and glamorising the whole crime as if the criminal is a glamorous person, I think, time has come to find ways and means to disapprove it and discourage it on all the channels. Sir, I would not like to mention any of the channels. I have detected 16 channels in India. In the name of prime time, which they should show, at least, after 11.00 p.m., they start showing it at 9.30 p.m., at 10.00 p.m., and, sometimes, in the noon, in day time. Therefore, Sir, I have planned that instead of announcing anything I shall call a meeting, then, I will come back to the House with what I have been able to achieve involving all of them.

Lastly, Sir, I come of fashion channels. Fashion is good. It is an industry. It encourages industry, trade and commerce, and nobody is opposed to any fashion, whether boys or girls. But some kind of fashion shows which are literally, totally and completely nude are being purposely hired by some channels to increase their TRP at some time. Therefore, Sir, this will also be in my agenda when I talk to the private channel editors and the management to discuss the issue. Sir, these are the things and ideas of the Ministry in which I am addressing this issue, and also the Censor Board certification regulation. I am putting a new teeth in the order that issue of animal, use of animal, should not be done in a film without comprehensive concurrence of the Animal Welfare Board. I came to know that in many films animals are used—we see only a part of the film—but before and after how many die and how many have taken care of veterinary system is not being noticed. Therefore, strict stipulation I have introduced, advised and directed. The only thing I feel, Sir, is that experts in the film should be involved more in the censorship arrangement then the nominee of simple political worker or the politicians. Sir, that is creating little cloud in the Regional Film Censor Boards and the Central Film Censor Board, which I am going to revise and review in a professional manner and order.

With these words, Sir, I would like to conclude my comments on the working of the Ministry of information and Broadcasting based on the points that have been raised. If some points are left out, Sir, I would be pleased to respond.

2.00 P.M.

मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आज़मी (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, मैं सिर्फ एक बात अर्ज करना चाहता हूं ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): केवल स्पष्टीकरण पूछिए।

मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आज़मी: सर, मैं श्री प्रियरंजन दास मुंशी साहब को मुबारकबाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने बहुत अच्छे ढंग से कदम उठाने की बात हाउस में कही। एक बात खास तौर पर कहना चाहता हूं, जिसको उन्होंने भी महसूस किया है, जैसे फैशन शो के नाम पर जो नंगापन है, उसी के साथ-साथ जितने भी अखबारात उठाकर देख लीजिए, जितनी भी मैग्ज़ीन्स आप उठाकर देख लीजिए, एक औरत जो सम्मान का प्रतीक है, उसको इतना अधिक ज़लील कर दिया जाता है और उसको जितना नंगा करके दिखाया जाता है–सिर्फ बिज़िनेस बढ़ाने के लिए–मैं समझता हूं कि यह हिन्दुस्तान की तहज़ीब पर सबसे बड़ा हमला है। इसको किस तरह से कंट्रोल किया जाएगा, बराए-करम प्रियरंजन दास मुंशी साहब इस पर खास बल देंगे। सिर्फ उतने पर ही नहीं बल्कि जितने भी अखबारात या मैग्ज़ीन्स में ये नंगी तस्वीर आ रही हैं, सर, कम से कम तहज़ीब के दायरे में तो तस्वीरें आनी चाहिए। बदतहज़ीबी के दायरे में जो कुछ आ रहा है, यह हिन्दुस्तानी संस्कृति के लिए लाज और शर्म की बात है।

[مولانا عبیداللہ خان اعظمی ''مدھیہ پردیش'': سر، میں صرف ایک بات عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔

آپ سبھاادھیکش ''شری کلراج مشرا'': کیول اسپشٹی کرن پوچھئے۔

مولانا عبیداللہ خان اعظمی: سر، میں شری پریہ رنجن داس منشی صاحب کو مبارکباد دیتا ہوں کہ انہوں نے بہت اچھے ڈھنگ سے قدم اٹھانے کی بات ہاؤس میں کہی۔ ایک بات خاص طور پر کہنا چاہتا ہوں، جس کو انہوں نے بھی محسوس کیا ہے، جیسے فیشن شو کے نام پر جو ننگا پن ہے، اسی کے ساتھ ساتھ جتنے بھی اخبارات اٹھا کر دیکھ لیجئے، جتنی بھی میگزین آپ اٹھا کر دیکھ لیجئے، ایک عورت جو سمان کی پرتیک ہے، اس کو اتنا ادھک ذلیل کر دیا جاتا ہے اور اس کو جتنا ننگا کر کے دکھایا جاتا ہے۔ صرف بزنیس بڑھانے کے لئے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ ہندستان کی تہذیب پر سب سے بڑا حملہ ہے۔ اس کو کس طرح سے کنٹرول کیا جائے گا، برائے کرم پریہ رنجن داس منشی صاحب اس پر خاص بل دیں گے۔ صرف اتنے پر ہی نہیں بلکہ جتنے بھی اخبارات یا میگزین میں یہ ننگی تصویریں آ رہی ہیں، سر، کم سے کم تہذیب کے دائرے میں تو تصویریں آنی چاہئیں۔ بدتہذیبی کے دائرے میں جو کچھ آ رہا ہے، یہ ہماری ہندستانی سنسکرتی کے لئے † لاج اور شرم کی بات ہے۔]

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I had raised a very relevant question for women's organisations in this country. I have seen the concern expressed by Members about different definitions of what constitutes 'obscenity'. I am not going into it.

But what we are really concerned about are the demeaning images of women, images which demean women. Wheather it is in advertisements or whether it is in any type of visual media, what we are seeing is a demeaning of women's images. We have seen images, Sir, shown including on Doordarshan in certain serials, in which a woman who is raped is then shown as being forced to marrying, happily marrying, the assaulter. Now, we consider this as 'obscene' as the other images which have offended so many of the Members, and rightly so.

So, in order to stop these demeaning images of women in these different forms which are being shown on television, we had asked for three things from the Minister. One, we had asked for a Monitoring Committee within the Ministry itself, which should have representatives of women's organisations on a regular basis and with certain powers to intervene in such cases. The second thing that we had asked for is, meetings with the Advertising Council. Although it is a sort of a legal body as such, it is not necessarily consulted before any private advertisers showing their advertisements; they are not accountable in that sense -- but still it is considered a representative body. Therefore, as far as the Advertising Council is concerned, whether the Minister can take any serious steps in trying to get some accountability from that body also because that is something which I had raised in the discussion, the reply of which has not come. Sir, the third point is,— and this is very important and it has been left out by the Minister—related to the images of children. What we are seeing today whether it is in advertisements or whether it is in any of these films, the images of girl children which are now being projected are really objectifying them in a most unfortunate manner. So, on these three, we would like some concrete assurance. I think, we should involve women's organisations in this process, which have done so much work.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): You have made your point. Please sit down. Shri Mangani Lal Mandal.

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल (बिहार): मान्यवर, अश्लीलता और नंगापन के बारे में माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है और स्वयं माननीय मंत्री जी ने इसे महसूस किया है। मेरा दूसरा विषय है कि आकाशवाणी, ऑल इंडिया रेडियो सुदूर अंचल देहातों तक एक वाहक के रूप में काम करता है और समाचार से लेकर सारी जानकारी आकाशवाणी के माध्यम से ही ग्रामीण अंचलों में पहुंचती है। दूरदर्शन को इस लक्ष्य को पूरा करना चाहिए था, इसमें दूरदर्शन अब तक सफल नहीं हो सका है और दूरदर्शन कस्बे तक भी नहीं पहुंच सका, जहां बिजली की व्यवस्था नहीं है, वहां जेनरेटर की व्यवस्था है। जहां इन्होंने छोटा-मोटा डिश एन्टीना लगाया, लेकिन बजट में केबल का जब से विस्तार हुआ है, केबल ने दूरदर्शन की मार्किट को एक तरह से बंद कर दिया है, जनता की नज़र से केबल ने इसे ओझल कर दिया है। सरकार ने व्यवस्था भी की, कानून भी बनाए, नियम भी बनाए, लेकिन किसी केबल ऑपरेटर ने इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया और केबल से दूरदर्शन समाचार नहीं के बराबर आता है, कहीं-कहीं आता होगा। लेकिन इस बीच में एक और व्यवस्था हो गई डी.टी.एच. की। यह डी.टी.एच. जहां केबल नहीं आता है - देहात में, ग्रामीण अंचल में - जहां बिजली नहीं है, जेनरेटर सेट नहीं है, वहां बैटरी से टी.वी. चलता है। ग्रामीण अंचलों में लोगों ने डी.टी.एच. लगाया है। जहां दूरदर्शन का डी.टी.एच. लोगों ने लिया है, वहां तो ठीक है, लेकिन जो दूसरे टी.वी. वालों ने अगर डी.टी.एच. दिया है, तो दूरदर्शन वहां नहीं पहुंच पाता है। एक समस्या यह है जिसकी तरफ मैं माननीय मंत्री का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं।

दूसरी समस्या यह है कि जो सीमावर्ती इलाका है, चाहे वह बंगलादेश हो, चाहे पाकिस्तान हो, चाहे नेपाल हो, लेकिन जहां हम रहते हैं, आकाशवाणी, काठमांडू और रेडियो आसानी से सुनाई देता है, लेकिन पटना, दरभंगा या पूर्णिया का रेडियो स्टेशन सीमावर्ती इलाके में सुनाई नहीं देता है। एक समस्या यह है और तीसरी समस्या यह है कि काठमांडू का जो टी.वी. है, वह आसानी से सीमावर्ती इलाके में दिखाई देता है, लेकिन दूरदर्शन नहीं आता है, तो इस व्यवस्था में सुधार होना चाहिए। यही समस्या हमने सुना है कि कश्मीर के बारे में भी है और बंगलादेश के सीमावर्ती इलाकों में भी है, इसलिए इन तीन बिंदुओं पर हमने मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी के विचारों को सुनकर बहुत प्रसन्नता हुई कि उन्होंने कई बातों को करने का विचार किया है, तथापि उनके शब्दों से कहीं-कहीं ऐसा भी लगता था कि कुछ उनकी सीमाएं हैं, कुछ मर्यादाएं हैं। मैं समझता हूं चूंकि विषय सम्पूर्ण समाज को स्पर्श करता है और इस देश की नैतिकता भी उसके साथ जुड़ी है, आपने भी उसकी चिंता व्यक्त की है, तो ऐसी जो लिमिटेशन्स हैं, जो मर्यादाएं हैं, जिनके कारण आप चाहते हुए भी नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इसको दोनों सदनों के उच्चतम स्तर पर विचार करके उचित कार्यवाही ज़रूर की जाए, हम आपके साथ हैं।

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Sir, the hon. Minister has taken the initiative to settle issues of the employees of Prasar Bharati. I am thankful for that. But, there are certain anomalies about pay scale, etc. of the administrative staff of Prasar Bharati. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would take initiatives in order to settle them.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, all TV channels are supposed to propagate scientific temper rather than superstitions. Recently, we have seen that all young people in the country are praying for Sachin Tendulkar's form to be returned, because he is undergoing medical treatment. But he went to some places for removal of *Sarpa Dosha* and that was very much projected by all TV channels and print media. When the Constitution commits itself to the removal of superstition and increasing the scientific temper, why should TV channels propagate *Sarpa Dosha Nivarana* of Sachin Tendulkar, while young boy feel that he has got some medical problem, he should return to his form and return to the field after getting medical treatment? Why should we propagate it?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad; you are the last speaker.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir please allow me only two minutes...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): You have already spoken on this issue.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, Shri Ravi Shankar has also spoken.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I am seeking clarification ...*(interruptions)*...

Sir, the hon. Minister must have heard the concern of the Members of the House, cutting across the divide, about threat of obscenity, the recurring problem. He talked of self-regulation. Believe the words of this friend with some experience, all this self-regulation is a humbug. They would talk of self-regulation, but competitive, commercial considerations would come in and one after other, the same programmes would follows.

Sir, he could not touch one issue that I had raised in my speech. Are you going in for a content-regulator? For newspapers, we have the Press Council. If anybody is aggrieved over something, as my friend talked of superstition programmes, do you have any content regulator?

Today, time has come when you must have a content regulator, away from Governmental control, so that if there is a grievance or there are problems, they can be looked into. We would like to have his views on that.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we had a very elaborate debate on the Information & Broadcasting Ministry. The hon. Minister has also responded very positively to the queries made by hon. Members. Sir, the moot point, which the House by consensus raised, is that the private channels ought to be regulated. This is the moot point and everybody was talking about that. Sir, if the electronic media wants, it can tarnish the image of anybody today. There is no check on that. One the other side if it wants to promote somebody, it can do it also. According to the regulation which the hon. Minister was referring to, unless and until it is codified and brought into force, it will be very difficult for them to follow them. Here, I endorse the views of the then hon. Minister of Information & Broadcasting. In the remote areas and where other channels could not reach, Doordarshan is reaching there. I request the hon. Minister to upgrade various stations. We have already made this request. Particularly, I brought about the issue of my State. The Doordarshan Production Unit is there. But it is non-functional for the last ten years immediately after it has been inaugurated by the then hon. Minister for Information & Broadcasting. Why should we have such a unit with fully equipped system and staff which is not doing anything at all? I have received a letter from the Doordarshan Kendra Director, but it is not satisfactory. Therefore, Sir, the hon. Minister should look into regulating the private channels and upgrading the existing Doordarshan Kendras. Wherever there are defects, they have to be rectified. Thank you.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I start with Narayanasamiji's issue of non-functioning of the station. I will collect the written information from Shri Narayanasami and look into the matter from my Ministry as to what the state of affairs is. In general, I have partly dealt with the views expressed by hon. Members, namely, Azmiji, Brinda Karatji, Ravi Shankar Prasadji, Vyasji, Naikji, and Mandalji, and in totality I reply now which I kept waiting till the queries are not made. For the last two months, my Ministry actively concentrated to draft the contents of Broadcasting Regulatory Bill with a large canvass consulting various stakeholders to address all these issues including that for which Brindaji is very keen to

have a kind of monitoring mechanism. We call it Viewers' Forum and institutionalise it with statutory support represented by the women organisation, children welfare organisation, other viewers including psychiatrists. It is in-built within the draft. In this Session we have not found any passage, but I am very confidently telling you that in the first week of Monsoon Session this Bill is coming to the House, and you will find all your points covered in the Act. For the last few months, my Ministry has worked very hard to prepare the draft consulting all other organisations within the country and outside. Therefore, it will meet that situation. I made a specific reference that revealing the women image, specially the kind of position of women that we are creating for children, is not a correct perception of a growing nation like India. Therefore, that also was taken into consideration, the draft was again changed and we put that clause also so that that mechanism will involve them also. Sir, in regard to what Mandalji said, you will be happy to know that in a country like India by this time we have 10 million DTH set-top boxes, and out of that 8 million are for Doordarshan and 2 million are for another DTH channel, that is, Zee. We are covering 33 channels—19 of Doordarshan and 14 others. Now, I am happy to inform you that by the end of the Tenth Plan, the DTH platform of Doordarshan could be the largest one in Asia and it will reach every corner at a lesser cost, with more availability, avoiding cable group. Therefore, the cable group is now fighting, "Stop DTH; stop DTH". Therefore, I have taken a programme, "No, DTH should reach everywhere". So, that problem will be addressed. For the time being, more than 95 per cent of the population of India is covered by the radio. In terms of television, it is more than 90 per cent.

It is not a fact that national network of Doordarshan coverage is not going to the length and breadth of the country. Excepting some parts of hilly terrain in North-East and parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it is being viewed everywhere, not satellite. Of course, DD News, which is exclusive satellite, that may not go, but the National Channel, that is, DD1, is being viewed widely and largely. But, the quality of programme and the content, I am trying to improve because in comparison to private channels' position, our position is yet to be improved. You will appreciate that. That I am going to do.

Sir, in regard to issues raised by Mr. Naikji, the superstition cannot be stopped by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. If we have a belief to go to a *tantrik,* how can we stop him not to go to

tantrik...(Interruptions). I am coming to that. TV's whole business is to catch a star or a celebrity in whatever form he or she moves. If Sachin Tendulkar prefers to go to a temple, how can we prevent the TV channel from following him? Can I do it? If you go, before filing your nomination, to a temple, how can I ask you not to go there? It is not regulated by the Ministry. It is all faith and understanding. But, in principle, we don't propagate that superstition should be there. Now, from morning to night, we find so many channels — Astha Channel, Pravachan Channel, etc. Sometimes, in Bengal, I find Astrologers' Channel. Each one is predicting someone's fate. Now, the Ministry cannot prevent all these things. Ministry is concerned about obscenity; Ministry is concerned about misdirection to the nation; Ministry is concerned not to encourage things which will spoil youth and children. Those are general framework guidelines, not by law. But, if you believe a ghost, or a *tantrik,* how can Information and Broadcasting Ministry come into the picture to prevent you? So, this is all can say. I am thankful to the Members for their suggestions. If, Sir, again I have missed something, I will go through the proceedings and I will respond accordingly.

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Sir, ...*(Interruptions).*

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: I told you in the beginning that on this staff's issue, I have said that I would play the role of a trade-union leader in the Group of Ministers in regard to pay-scales and other things.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Amending Bill, 2006

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): अब हम दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता (संशोधन) संशोधनकारी विधेयक, 2006 लेंगे।

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2005, containing 44 clauses was passed by both the Houses of Parliament during the Budget Session of 2005. The Bill, after receiving the assent of